

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 3rd March 1894.

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		The Bihar Indigo-planters' Association on the cow-slaughter question ...	ib.
		URIYA PAPERS.	
		The Cuttack Medical School ...	ib.
		The Orissa settlement ...	ib.
		ASSAM PAPERS.	
		Nil.	

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Māsik"	Calcutta ...	294	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura ...	397	
3	"Grāmvāsī"	Ramkristopur, Howrah ...	1,000	
4	"Kasipur Nivāsī"	Kasipur, Barisāl ...	300	
5	"Navamihir"	Ghatail, Mymensingh ...	500	
6	"Sadar-o-Mufasssal"	Tahirpur, Rajshahi ...	650	
7	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ulubaria ...	720	12th February 1894.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
8	"Bangavāsī"	Calcutta ...	20,000	24th ditto.
9	"Banganivāsī"	Ditto ...	8,000	16th and 23rd February 1894.
10	"Burdwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan ...	310	20th February 1894.
11	"Chinsura Vārtāvaha"	Chinsura ...	500	25th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca ...	2,400	25th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	950	23rd ditto.
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	248	
15	"Hitavādī"	Calcutta ...	3,000	22nd ditto.
16	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ...	.....	
17	"Pratikār"	Ditto ...	608	23rd ditto.
18	"Rangpur Dikprakāsh"	Kakinia, Rangpur ...	170	
19	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	800-1,000	21st ditto.
20	"Samaj-o-Sāhitya"	Garibpore, Nadia ...	1,000	25th ditto.
21	"Samaya"	Calcutta ...	4,000	23rd ditto.
22	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	4,000	24th ditto.
23	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	.....	
24	"Saraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	(300-400)	24th ditto.
25	"Som Prakāsh"	Calcutta ...	800	26th ditto.
26	"Srimanta Sadagar"	Ditto ...	.....	
27	"Sudhakar"	Ditto ...	2,000	23rd ditto.
28	"Vikrampur"	Lauhajangha, Dacca ...	600	22nd ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
29	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Calcutta ...	500	26th ditto.
30	"Bengal Exchange Gazette"	Ditto ...	.....	
31	"Dainik-o-Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto ...	1,200	25th February to 1st March 1894.
32	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto ...	1,435	24th and 26th February to 1st March 1894.
33	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	23rd and 26th to 28th February 1894.
34	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto ...	3,000	23rd, 24th, and 26th February to 1st March 1894.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ...	500-600	26th February 1894.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
36	"Bihar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	500	ditto.
37	"Darjeeling Mission ke Māsik Samāchār Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	500	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Aryāvarta"	Dinapore ...	750	
39	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	2,500	22nd ditto.
40	"Champanan Chandrika"	Bettiah ...	350	
41	"Desī Vyāpārī"	Calcutta ...	.....	
42	"Hindi Bangavāsī"	Ditto ...	10,000	26th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Hublul Mateen"	Calcutta ...	.....	20th ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.			Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
URDU.							
Weekly.							
44	" Akhbar-i-Al Punch "	...	...	Bankipore	...	750	22nd February 1894.
45	" Anis "	...	...	Patna	...	.....	
46	" Calcutta Punch "	...	...	Calcutta	...	.....	
47	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide "	...	...	Ditto	...	300	22nd ditto.
48	" General and Gauhariasfi "	...	...	Ditto	...	410	23rd ditto.
49	" Mehre Monawar "	...	...	Muzaffarpur	...	150	
50	" Reis-ul-Akhbar-i-Murshidabad "	...	...	Murshidabad	...	150	
51	" Setare Hind "	...	...	Arrah	...	.....	
52	" Shokh "	...	...	Monghyr	...	100	
URIYA.							
Monthly.							
53	" Asha "	...	...	Cuttack	...	80	
54	" Pradíp "	...	...	Ditto	...	.....	
55	" Samyabadi "	...	...	Ditto	...	.....	
56	" Taraka and Subhavártá "	...	...	Ditto	...	.....	
57	" Utkalprabhá "	...	...	Mayurbhunj	...	97	
Weekly.							
58	" Dipaka "	...	...	Cuttack	...	.....	
59	" Samvad Váhika "	...	...	Balasore	...	203	25th January 1894.
60	" Uriya and Navasamvád "	...	...	Ditto	...	420	24th ditto.
61	" Utkal Dípiká "	...	...	Cuttack	...	450	27th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.							
BENGALI.							
Fortnightly.							
62	" Paridarshak "	...	...	Sylhet	...	480	
63	" Silchar "	...	...	Silchar	...	250	
64	" Srihattavási "	...	...	Sylhet	...	.....	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1. The *Ulubaria Darpan* of the 12th February says that on the 11th February last a young woman was left behind at Ulubaria by an *arkati* who took steamer there for Calcutta with the rest of his coolies. It appears that the woman was enticed away by him under false pretences, and on discovering her mistake, she refused to go with him. Thereupon the recruiter kept her confined in a room. But when she was being carried to the steamer at Ulubaria, she cried so much that lots of people assembled near her and tried to arrest the *arkati*. This made the man leave the woman behind and start for Calcutta with the rest of his coolies. Cases like this will continue to occur so long as the fraudulent recruitment of coolies is not adequately punished.

ULUBARIA DARPAN,
Feb. 12th, 1894.
2. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 15th February draws the attention of the Sub-divisional Officer of Barh in the Patna district to the outrage offered to the Muhammadan religion by the digging of the graves in the cemetery in the village Darwa Bhador and the taking away of earth therefrom by some people.

DARUSSALTANAT AND
URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 15th, 1894.
3. The *Hublul Mateen*, of the 20th February says that the authorities in Calcutta do wrong in handing over the dead bodies of Musalmans after *post-mortem* examination to *doms* for disposal. The bodies should be buried by Muhammadans with the usual funeral rites sanctioned in the Muhammadan religion. If the authorities fail to arrange for this, they should communicate on the subject with the Anjumani-Esna Ashriah of Calcutta, an institution which has for its object the burial of dead Musalmans whose bodies are not claimed by any body.

HUBLUL MATEEN,
Feb. 20th, 1894.
4. The *Bangavasi* of the 24th February speaks of the injustice which is done to the people of a village where, owing to frequency of crime, the authorities consider it necessary to place an extra police force, the cost of maintaining such police force being levied entirely from the villagers. It does not speak very highly of the administrative power of a Government which fails to trace the real culprits and therefore punishes the guilty and the innocent alike. It is scarcely to be believed that the British Government, which rules so large an empire, is unable to detect those who offend against its laws. And it is therefore to be hoped that the authorities will see that the real criminals in the localities in which crimes are frequent are found out, and the innocent people of those localities are relieved of the unjust burden which under the existing law they have to share with the guilty.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.
5. Referring to the case of police oppression reported by the *Burdwan Sanjivani* (see R. N. P. for week ending 24th February, paragraph 1), the *Sanjivani* of the 24th February says that the charge against the Police Superintendent is a very serious one, and if it turns out to be true, that officer ought to be severely punished. The writer wants to know if Sir Charles Elliott will make an enquiry into the matter.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

6. The *Sahachar* of the 21st February has the following on Dr. Pearce's acquittal by the High Court:—

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 21st, 1894.

Dr. Pearce's acquittal.

The acquittal must have astonished the public. There is, however, no cause for astonishment. No one will believe, nor is it proper for any one to believe, that the Judges who tried this case have knowingly failed in their duty. But the question still arises, why did so many people give evidence against two Europeans? The Judges believe that natives can perjure themselves for nothing in the way they have done in this case. They also honestly believe that in the present case the statements of ten natives made on oath are not of the same value as the oral testimony of the European *asami*. This belief is of course erroneous. The Judges probably do not know that

natives would rather make a detour of some quarter of a mile than face a European soldier out a-hunting gun in hand. Government, however, does its duty in such cases by arresting the asamis and bringing them to courts of justice. But it has no power over the courts, nor is it desirable that it should have any. So it will be very improper to hold Government responsible for the doings of the courts. It is a fact nevertheless that the number of European murderers and their acquittals are on the increase. And consequently our European soldiers are becoming more reckless than before in the matter of taking native lives. Government should therefore apply remedial measures without delay, for the people will otherwise commence taking the law into their own hands. When a European soldier will kill a native, the people will combine and have the murderer hanged on the nearest tree. And Government will then be compelled to interfere; and the police will then make indiscriminate arrests; and bribes will be freely given and taken, and some innocent people will be ultimately punished to the discredit of Government. All this mischief may be prevented by Government taking timely action and withholding permission to soldiers to go out a-hunting.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 22nd, 1894.

7. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd February has the following on Dr. Pearse's acquittal:—

Dr. Pearse's acquittal.

The writer does not pretend to know the mystery of the administration of justice by Sahebs, but he understands this much that the offences for which natives are punished with death remain, when brought against Europeans, in the majority of cases, unproved. The unfortunate Kachi came by his death from bullet shots fired from a gun, but who fired the gun has not been proved. Everybody from the Magistrate to the Chief Justice, from the mukhtar whose fee is only one rupee a day, to the barrister getting a daily honorarium of 1,000 rupees, has been unable to find out Kachi's murderer, although it is a fact that the Saheb (Dr. Pearse) had a gun in his hand. The only facts which have been proved in the High Court are Kachi's death, and his death from a bullet shot. But these facts were already known, and surely it was not for their determination that the case was taken to the High Court. There were, on one side, a Saheb asami, a Saheb barrister, and a Saheb Judge, and there were, on the other, a murdered Bengali and a *kala* barrister. This being the case, there were great obstacles in the way of determining the truth. If the case, instead of being one between a Bengali and a Saheb, had been one between one Bengali and another, its mystery would probably have been out. As the murder of Kachi has taken place while the O'Hara case is still in the memory of the people, it has been thought advisable to hush it up, and the object has been gained by trying the case in a careless, good-for-nothing style.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 23rd, 1894.

8. The *Banganivasi* of the 23rd February has the following:—

The Fulta shooting case at the High Court.

Dr. Pearse has been acquitted at the High Court Sessions. He admitted having fired, but the plea he took up was that on being chased by the villagers he fired shots in the air in self-defence and simply with the object of frightening the villagers. The writer cannot understand why the villagers, who always regard Englishmen with awe, came to pursue these military men. The shots which struck Kachi were proved to have come from a distance, and this was the only point in favour of Dr. Pearse, and he was acquitted. The shots being proved to have come from a distance, the whole case for the prosecution was supposed to have collapsed. The Standing Counsel, with the approval of the Advocate-General, submitted that there was no case against the accused. And the Chief Justice did not consider it necessary even to empanel a jury.

The writer is not sorry that Dr. Pearse has been acquitted, for the people of India feel themselves insecure if the least mischance befalls any of Her Majesty's soldiers in India. But the thing to be regretted is that deaths at the hands of soldiers are daily increasing.

9. The *Samay* of the 23rd February has the following on the Guntakul case:—

The Guntakul case.

The soldiers in this case stand convicted, out of their own mouths, of dishonesty, cruel murder and cowardice. That the men, who face burning bullets and uplifted swords without flinching or shrinking were so afraid of their lives at seeing a stick in the hand of a native, that they

felt compelled to shoot him in self-defence, is a very extraordinary thing indeed. Nevertheless, the jury found it necessary to believe it. But the public need not be told how very impossible it is for a native, who is armed only with a stick, even to think of attacking six soldiers. Supposing that Hampana raised a bamboo stick with the object of frightening the soldiers, is it possible to believe that the sight so unmanned them that they could not help shooting him down in self-defence? And is the section of the Penal Code relating to self defence meant to apply to such cases? Has the mettle of British soldiers gone down so low that the sight of a stick in the hand of a native makes them senseless in fear? And yet this is the conclusion which was arrived at by the jury and the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court. The evidence tendered in this case leads the public to believe that there was no necessity for Ashford to shoot the man, and that he did so in sheer wickedness, and because he was thwarted by him in his vicious design. And yet this budmash and murderer has escaped punishment simply by the aid of a jury consisting of his own countrymen. The defence set up in this case was ludicrous in the extreme, and impartial Anglo-Indian newspapers like the *Statesman* have expressed dissatisfaction with the result of the trial. But so anxious are Judge and jury to save the life of one of their countrymen that, with the object of gaining that end, they do not hesitate to throw reason and logic completely overboard and to draw down upon themselves the ridicule of the public.

10. Referring to the acquittal of the defendant in the Guntakul case, the *Banganivasi* of the 23rd February makes the following observations:—

The Guntakul case.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 23rd, 1894.

How is this? That Hampana was killed by Ashford was proved by the evidence of witnesses and admitted by the murderer himself. Then how is it that the accused has been let off? Under what law has he been acquitted in the face of the evidence produced against him and his own admission? It is that plea of self-defence—that beneficent provision of the law which may be made to grant every wish and confer every favour. Hampana, it seems, had come out armed with a knife with four blades, and a stout bamboo lathi to kill (!) Ashford, who himself says: "I fired at Hampana on seeing a knife in his hand." And why will you not fire? Are you not the spoilt pampered children of pleasure, the very incarnations of caprice, the little playful pets who must always be treated with exceptional forbearance and indulgence?—But Judge! is it possible that a native gave the chase to a half-a-dozen armed European soldiers for the purpose of killing them, and that finding their lives in peril at the hands of this black native, they were obliged to fire at him in self-defence? Is this the right interpretation to put on section 100 of the Penal Code? Legislators! is the scope of that section so large and extensive that even such unlawful murders can be covered by the plea of self-defence? And is there anywhere else such a dreadful justification of that provision of the Penal Code?

Now, with the single exception of a friend of the defendant, one of his old companions and fellow-soldiers, nobody says that the soldiers were chased by Hampana knife and *lathi* in hand. How then can it be made out that the accused found it necessary to use his right of self-defence? It is in evidence that not one, not ten, but thirty to forty European soldiers made a jingling sound with silver coins, before the poor cooly women, who were breaking stones for the Public Works Department, that owing to the commission of a murder by these soldiers, they were obliged to stop work and run away, and that the soldiers thereupon began to pelt them with stones. This is corroborated by other witnesses, and the accused himself says that he fired at Hampana because he thought that the deceased might attack him. Do these acts show the character of European soldiers? Are acts like these an outcome of fear and trepidation? Are they not rather paroxysms of brutal lust?

The whole universe and all beings therein that move as well as those that do not, hear what the defendant Ashford said in his deposition, but do not smile. Ponder over it, but be not sorry. This is the true deposition, but only one witness spoke to having seen a knife. But supposing there was a knife, was not the circumstance that the mere sight of the knife led him to apprehend attack and murder, and, as a result of that almost groundless apprehension, to fire, enough to justify at least Ashford's removal to hospital for treatment for insanity.

Commander-in-Chief! What more shall we say to you? Half a dozen soldiers were in fear of their lives at the sight of a knife in the hand of a native. Will you not expel such cowardly and treacherous fellows from the army? Will you not send away these timid creatures with contempt?

And mother, Empress of India, the mother and protectress of a crore of children, will you not see the tears that flow from your children's eyes? We read in our Puranas and novels about the reign of King Rama, but it is only by our experience of your rule and the care and affection with which you treat us that we realise what Rama's rule was like. But, mother! such cruel murder and punishment of your children and such earning of infamy in the name of administration under your holy rule are what we cannot bear to see. Merciful mother! do you with the scarf of your affection wipe away the tears of your unlucky Indian children? Mother, do you, like a mother that you are, lovingly attend to the heart's grief of your heart-broken sons? To whom else shall we show the stream of blood that is flowing from our lacerated hearts?

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1891.

11. Referring to the result of the Guntakul murder case in the Madras

The Guntakul case.

High Court, the *Sanjivani* of the 24th February says that people were under the impression that failure of justice in cases between natives and Europeans took place only in the lower courts of the country; but it now appears that even the High Courts are not free from race prejudice in the trial of such cases. Indeed, people are gradually losing that confidence in the decisions of the High Courts which was produced by virtue of their position as courts of justice independent of executive control, and superior to all race and other prejudices. There has been as great a miscarriage of justice in this case as there was in the O'Hara case in Bengal.

SANJIVANI

12. Referring to the trial of the Fulta shooting case in the Calcutta High

The Fulta shooting case in the High Court.

Court, the same paper says that the most proper thing would have been to postpone the case, as suggested by the Standing Counsel, till better proof as to the manner in which Kachi Khan died and Narayan Dhari was wounded was forthcoming. But the Chief Justice acquitted Surgeon Pearse of all guilt, on the ground that it would inconvenience him to have a charge of murder hanging over his head.

On the day on which Kachi Khan was shot, no one excepting Dr. Pearse and his two comrades entered the village with fire-arms, and yet the murderer of Kachi Khan could not be traced, and has been allowed to go unpunished. Natives are thus being everywhere killed by soldiers, and the culprits are going untraced, and even when traced, are going unpunished. Miscarriage of justice is taking place even in the High Courts. How is this state of things to be remedied? So far as the writer can see, the only way of putting a stop to these murders by soldiers and other Europeans, is to issue a rule strictly prohibiting all Europeans, not excepting soldiers, from taking fire-arms with them when going out.

The writer has heard that lately one day when the Deputy Magistrate of Diamond Harbour was in his court, some soldiers from the fort in that place entered his *zanana*, and fled only when an alarm was raised. A number of people chased the soldiers, and brought one or two of them to the Deputy Magistrate, who sent their names to the fort authorities. This incident shows how hard it is for the people of this country to protect their lives, property, and honour, not excepting even female chastity, from the violence of European soldiers.

BANGAVASI
Feb. 24th, 1891.

13. The *Bangavasi* of the 24th February says that, now that Dr. Pearse

The Fulta shooting case.

has been acquitted of the charge of having murdered Kachi Khan, will the authorities kindly tell the public who murdered that unfortunate man?

SULABH DAINIK
Feb. 26th, 1891.

14. A correspondent of the *Sulabh Dainik* of the 26th February regrets to

Babu Gopal Chandra Mukerji,
Sub-divisional Officer of Diamond Harbour.

learn that Babu Gopal Chandra Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate, has been transferred from the Diamond Harbour sub-division. The sub-division had never before such an able, kind-hearted and a social officer like Gopal Babu. His transfer has accordingly caused sorrow to all classes of the local public. He was an exceedingly able, active, and expert

criminal officer and he kept budmashes in check. The zamindar of Diamond Harbour should take steps to perpetuate his memory in the sub-division.

15. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 28th February has the following on Dr. Pearse's acquittal:—

Dr. Pearse's acquittal.

No body doubts that Dr. Pearse fired his gun and that the gun contained shots. There is also no doubt that Kachi Khan was killed by a rifle bullet. And though it transpired in the evidence of the village witnesses that Kachi's death was due to bullets fired from Dr. Pearse's gun, that evidence was disbelieved by the Judge and the Standing Counsel, and Dr. Pearse was let off without a trial. For this, the doctor's friends ought to thank Jesus and praise the law. But why is so much noise being made in the matter? Is it desired that no other Englishman should be committed to the sessions in future for murdering a native? It is an English maxim "that the King can do no wrong," and during the trial of the *Bangavasi* case, Sir Comer Petheram declared that all Englishmen living in India are kings. This is true, for the Parliament which rules the British Empire simply carries out the orders of Englishmen, who must therefore be regarded as kings. So Dr. Pearse is a king, and as such can do nothing wrong. Do the Anglo-Indian supporters of the doctor wish to see this principle given effect to?

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 28th, 1894.

(d)—Education.

16. The *Sudhakar* of the 23rd February says that the questions in arithmetic set at the last Entrance Examination were intended solely to puzzle the candidates, and will surely lead to very bad results.

The questions in arithmetic at the Entrance Examination.

SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 23rd, 1894.

17. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani* of the 24th February, writing from Bankipore, says that both the Survey and Industrial Schools in that place ought to be abolished, and with the money thus saved an Engineering College

The Bankipore Survey and Industrial Schools.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

ought to be established competent to teach up to the first Bengal Civil Engineering Examination Standard.

18. The same correspondent of the same paper says that the authorities of the Bankipore Medical School are doing a good deal of mischief by admitting to the school

The Bankipore Medical School.

SANJIVANI.

female students of unknown character.

19. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 25th February has the following:—In the new curriculum for the Upper Primary Scholarship Examination, no text-book has been named in

Text-books for the Vernacular Examinations.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 25th, 1894.

geography, and the boys preparing for that examination have been required to possess only a general knowledge of the four quarters of the globe. Now the expression 'general knowledge' is not very clear, and the Director of Public Instruction will be pleased to say whether or not the candidates will have to gain a knowledge of such places as Timbuctu, Otahaiti, &c. In the writer's opinion, those boys of tender age who compete for this examination should not be required to gain a general knowledge of geography, a subject, which should be left to boys reading in the first class of Middle English Schools to master. Bengal History by the late Babu Rajkrishna Mukerjee has been named as the only text-book in history for this examination. Now, it is not clear why Rajkrishna Babu's book has been selected to the exclusion of other books. For some reason or other, the book in question is already in use in all the circles, and there was no necessity of making special provision for it. The book, though defective in its account of the Hindu period, is not a bad book. Nevertheless, its selection as the only text-book in history has given malicious people an opportunity of slandering Radhika Babu who, they say, has reduced the Director of Public Instruction to a puppet in his hand. The writer has received a number of letters on the subject of the selection of Radhika Babu's *Svasthyaraksha* as a text-book for the Middle Vernacular examination, and his *Svasthyaraksha Pravesika*, as a text-book for the Lower Primary examination, and the inclusion of his brother's book in the curriculum for the Upper Primary examination, but as they seemed prompted by malicious motives, he has destroyed them. He has, nevertheless, doubts about the propriety of making the above books sole text-books for the above examinations in the subjects to which

they relate. No special text-books have been named in any subject for the middle scholarship examination, and why was not the same course adopted in regard to the Upper Primary examinations too? There are books written by men like Bhudeb Babu, and Braja Mohan Babu, and these should have been made exclusive text-books in different subjects for this examination. '*Bangadeservivara*' by Babu Dina Nath Sen is the best book of its kind, and should have been named as a text-book for the Upper Primary examination. Thus it is clear that, so far as the selection of text-books for the two examinations is concerned what ought not to have been done has been done, and what ought to have been done has not been done. If the public are dissatisfied with the selections, they may send a representation on the subject to Government, stating the ground of their objection. In these days, no one can hope to have his grievances removed unless he makes up his mind to state in plain and forcible language what those grievances are. There was a time when text-books used to be selected by the Inspectors of Schools. And there being several Inspectors, books written by a large number of authors were selected as text-books, but it has been otherwise, since the Director of Public Instruction himself undertook the work of selection, and as it is the public criticism of the selection work done by the Inspectors that has brought about the change, authors of school books have themselves to thank for it. Before clamouring for the transfer of the work of selection from the Inspectors, they should have considered that the Director of Public Instruction was a man of flesh and blood, with his likings and dislikings, friends and enemies, and an office of his own. The Director has many good men in his office, and his Personal Assistant is well known for his amiable disposition and liberality of heart, and can it be supposed that clever and intelligent as the Director himself is, he follows the advice of any other person than his Personal Assistant?

Under the new rules, the boys who get scholarships on the result of the Upper Primary examination will be permitted to hold the same in Middle English Schools, and where such schools do not exist, in High English Schools. Now, considering that the boys who have passed the Middle Vernacular Examination require five years' study before they are fit to appear at the Entrance examination, the boys who will under the new rules join a high school after passing the Upper Primary examination will be put to considerable difficulty in mastering the course of study followed in that school. As a consequence, many of them will stand the risk of having their future prospects blasted. It is, therefore, desirable that in no instance should a boy who has obtained a scholarship at the Upper Primary examination be permitted to hold the same in an Entrance school without the approval of the Circle Inspector. Again, under the new rules girls from Lower Primary, Upper Primary and Middle Schools may compete for the scholarships which are awarded on the results of either the Upper Primary or the Lower Primary, or the Middle Scholarship Examination. This will, no doubt, serve as an encouragement to female education, but as the writer has misgivings about the usefulness of that education, he is not sure that the new rule will do good to the country. Be that as it may, as not more than one scholarship will be annually awarded to each school, the encouragement will after all be extremely slight.

Under the new rules, girls may obtain scholarships at the Upper Primary examination and yet continue to read in the same schools without preventing other girls reading in those schools from obtaining the same scholarships next year. This will induce the girls not to leave study, as they do now, after having obtained scholarship at the Upper Primary Examination, and so prove advantageous to the cause of female education.

(e).—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

AL PUNCH,
Feb. 22nd, 1894.

20. *Al Punch* of the 22nd February says that when the cow-killing circular was placed before the Municipal Commissioners of Patna for consideration, all the Musalman Commissioners voted against it. But no final decision has yet been arrived at.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

21. Referring to the Calcutta Municipality's proposal to increase taxation, the *Sanjivani* of the 24th February says that already the municipal rates are so high that it has become impossible for middle class people and

the poor to live in the town, and if they are made higher most people will be obliged to leave the town. Before making any proposal for increased taxation, it is the duty of the Commissioners to check the waste of large sums of money by the Health and Engineering Departments. A Committee, it is true, was some time ago appointed to suggest retrenchments, but no one has yet seen the report of that Committee. The Commissioners are too prone to give way to those who flatter them, and the proposal for retrenchment has therefore come to nothing. The rate-payers of the different wards ought to hold meetings in order to protest against the proposal, and to insist on the Commissioners retrenching their expenditure in the Health and Engineering Departments.

22. The same paper says that the newly-constructed drains in Bankipore, though they cost a good deal of money, have not improved the sanitation of the town. When the Lieutenant-Governor visited Bankipore during the last rainy season, the Commissioners congratulated themselves on the rapid improvement of the health of the town in consequence of the improved drainage, but shortly after the Lieutenant-Governor's visit cholera made a serious havoc among the residents. This circumstance was not, of course, brought to the Lieutenant-Governor's notice. Many places which were formerly free from bad smells have become full of such smells since the construction of the new drains. Indeed, if arrangements are not made for flushing the drains twice every day, the health of Bankipore will soon deteriorate. The writer suggests the appointment of an Honorary Vice-Chairman who will sympathise with the residents, and the utilisation of the Vice-Chairman's present salary of Rs. 300 in flushing the drains.

23. The *Samaj-o-Sahitya* of the 25th February publishes certain sanitary rules which have been framed by Dr. Jadu Nath Mukerji, the well-known Medical writer, and are being circulated for the guidance of the people of the villages in the Bongong sub-division where cholera has broken out.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

SAMAJ-O-SAHITYA,
Feb. 25th, 1894.

(f).— Questions affecting the land.

24. The *Banganivasi* of the 16th February has the following *anent* the rent disturbances in Assam :—
The rent disturbances in Assam. One's very heart's blood dries up, the weak mind of the Bengali sinks into a sea of sorrow and trembles with horror to make out the reason why such an injustice came to be perpetrated. Who kindled this fire of destruction in this happy kingdom of the mother-like Empress? How came such terrible discontent to be aroused in a realm of such contentment? The poor and illiterate raiyats of Assam, nourished in the lap of peace and contentment, did not rise in rebellion or call in question the authority of the British Government. What other offence did they commit which required their heart's blood to appease the authorities? How did they come to rouse the anger of the authorities so much, that it could not be appeased by anything but their very blood? The writer is unable to answer these questions. He distinctly hears the piteous moans of the mothers who have been deprived of their sons, and the tearful appeals to heaven of the wives who have lost their husbands. He hears the destitute and oppressed raiyats of Assam, wounded by the Goorkha soldiers' bayonets, heaving sighs and asking Her Majesty: "O kind mother-Empress of India, are we not your subjects? We know no difference between a son and a subject, nor do we know that the interests of the ruler, and the ruled are not identical. How then came such a massacre of your subjects, of your sons that is, to be perpetrated within your dominions?" These heart-rending wails of the Assam people will probably only mix with the air and die away in infinite space without being heard or heeded by anybody except the Almighty Alleviator of all sorrows.

But how did such an injustice come to be perpetrated? What offence were the raiyats guilty of? The soil of Assam is not very fertile, and its productive power is gradually decreasing. Still Government doubled the rent in 1869. The raiyats found this very hard, but paid the enhanced rent, and starved themselves in consequence. Next in December 1892, the rents were again doubled, and this time the raiyats found it impossible to pay the enhanced

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 16th, 1894.

rents, and accordingly submitted a petition to the Government of India, praying for a reduction of the rates of rent. They waited long, but received no reply to their petition. In the meantime, however, the local authorities brought every pressure to bear on the raiyats in order to make them pay rent at the enhanced rates. The raiyat's limit of forbearance was passed, for even the coldest ice becomes warm and melts under severe friction, and they took up a hostile attitude. The authorities at the same time adopted a summary process to cure the raiyats of their madness, and wails rose on all sides.

In conclusion, the writer entreats Lord Elgin, whose heart has not yet been narrowed, to do justice to the Assam raiyats.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

25. The *Bangavasi* of the 24th February has the following :—

The rent disturbances in Assam.

The disturbances in Assam have ceased. But it is said that great oppressions are being still committed on the raiyats. They are being sent to jail in numbers on the charge of having been implicated in the riots. At Rangiya a new jail has been temporarily devised, to which every one, who is suspected of having been implicated in the riots, irrespective of caste, creed and rank in society, is being sent by way of punishment. Respectable people are being enlisted as special constables, and employed in collecting rents. The people do not any longer dare refuse rent. The above circumstances have struck terror into every heart, and it is hoped that the authorities will lose no time in publishing a correct account of the situation, and thus reassure the public mind.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Feb. 20th, 1894.

26. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 20th February says that Srimati

Gift of land for a canal in the
Burdwan District.

Sadhumati Debi of Manirambati, a village in the district of Burdwan, deserves the special thanks of the public for making a free gift of the land which will be required for the purpose of the canal, which will connect Rankinidaha with the Eden Canal. The canal should be named after her, and if she is encouraged in this way, she may be induced to relinquish to Government all the rights which her raiyats possess in the lands which will be taken for the canal.

SAHACHAR
Feb. 21st, 1894.

27. The *Sahachar* of the 21st February says that though the Eastern

Misapplication of public money
in the Eastern Bengal Railway
line.

Bengal Railway is now the property of the public, a ball-room has been constructed with public money at the Sealdah Station for the entertainment of European and Eurasian employes of the line, and they, as well as their wives and children travel every year to Barrackpore free of charge. Who controls this expenditure of public money?

(h)—*General.*

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 15th, 1894.

28. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 15th February says that

Oppression in connection with
official tours.

during his recent visit to the Barh subdivision of the Patna district, the Editor was an eye-witness of the oppressions which are committed on mufassal people in connection with official tours. On the 8th February last, while staying at the village, Darwa Bhador, he heard a proclamation made by beat of drum requiring the villagers to sweep their roads and cut down trees in view of the approaching visit of the Subdivisional Officer. On the 9th February, while on a visit to Furruk Hossein, the zamindar of the village, he saw two constables ordering the zamindar to get a supply of rice, ghee, fuel and other articles for the Subdivisional Officer, and his amla and the mukhtars and others attending his camp. On asking the zamindar whether he would get the prices of these articles, the Editor learnt that no one dared to ask for prices, and prices were consequently never paid.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 18th, 1894.

29. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 19th February says that, encouraged by

The Muhammadans of Dinapore
and the cow-killing circular.

the officials, the Musalmans of Dinapore are doing their best to nullify the cow-killing circular, and are pretending that beef forms an essential food of the Muhammadans. The writer defends the *Gorakshani Sabhas* against the charge of complicity in the cow-killing agitation by saying that the *Gorakshani Sabha* at Nagpore has both Hindus and Musalmans for its members.

30. The *Sahachar* of the 21st February says that while the Government of Bengal is making a large profit by selling quinine through the agency of the post-office, the Government of the Punjab is distributing the article gratis through its tehsildars. Of these two practices, which is the better?

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 21st, 1894.

31. The same paper has the following:—

The Currency difficulty. At the merchants' dinner Lord Lansdowne had to admit that his currency policy had proved a failure. It was a great mistake to close the mints to the private coinage of silver. The writer is hearing of many things in connection with the office of the Secretary of State, but he dares not publish them. It will, however, be well to enquire who are the officers in that office who sell Council Bills, and whether or not they have any connection with the London Bank. Many have made fortunes by the contract alone. They are ordinary people who do not belong to the office of the Secretary of State. Gradually the price of the rupee has come down to a shilling, and though the mints remain closed, silver is pouring in and the native princes are coining it into rupees. Does Government want to put a stop to this by force? In the meantime trade is paralysed, the merchants feel depressed, and the people are dissatisfied. So, remedial measures ought to be taken without delay.

SAHACHAR.

Though England owes her present position and influence to her occupation of India, yet her ministers treat India as a foreign country and have adopted towards it a strange financial policy. They do not even seem to admit that England has any responsibility in this respect. But the result of this policy will be a decrease of the consumption of European goods, for the prices of those goods have already risen. If India had been France many things would have happened at a time like this, and it is only the worthlessness of the people of India which saves England from the just consequences of its financial policy towards this country. Nevertheless, the laws of nature cannot be long violated with impunity. The new experiment has failed, and the mints should be made free without delay. It is very improper to make experiments at the cost of a country so poor as India. There are apparently no able officers in this country. If there had been, a time-expired man like Mr. Westland, who was enjoying his pension in New Zealand, would not have been appointed Finance Minister. This man was a clerk all his life and is sure to commit blunder in his new office. It is high time that Government admitted its mistake and thereby saved itself from bankruptcy and the country from ruin. Let it bear in mind that since the foundation of British rule in this country its finances were never in a more disorganised condition than they are now.

32. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 22nd February says that the object of Sir Charles Elliott's visit to Patna is to ascertain the feeling of the Musalmans of that place with regard to the cow-killing circular.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
Feb. 22nd, 1894.

Sir A. P. MacDonnell, with whom originated the idea of the circular, took for correct the statement made by the Maharaja of Darbhanga at the Bankipore meeting and in the presence of some so-called leaders of the Muhammadan community that the Hilsa riot was brought about by the Musalmans first bathing the cow, intended for slaughter, in the Ganges and then parading the animal, adorned with vermilion and garland of flowers, through the streets of the bazar, thus outraging the religious feelings of the Hindus. None of the so-called leaders of the Muhammadan community present at the meeting had the moral courage to contradict the Maharaja by saying that the acts charged against the Musalmans of Hilsa being such as are strictly prohibited by the Muhammadan religion could not possibly have been performed by them.

That the Maharaja's statement could not have been correct is proved by the fact that the town of Hilsa is about 14 miles from the Ganges. Was it upon wings that the Musalmans flew to the Ganges with their cow on the morning of the Buqid and then immediately after returned to Hilsa and paraded the animal through the streets of the bazar? It is known that the cows were taken away by force by the Hindus two days before the Buqid, and how is it possible that the Musalmans paraded them through the streets on the Buqid day?

It is evident that both Sir Charles Elliott and Sir Antony MacDonnell are ignorant of the principles of the Muhammadan religion, or they could not have believed as facts the impossibilities stated by the Maharaja.

Now, if His Honour cancels the circular according to his promise, well and good, but if he does not, the circular will be like an unsheathed sword in the hands of Hindus. What act of disloyalty have the Musalmans been guilty of since the mutiny that such an outrage has been perpetrated upon them? They withheld from the Congress agitation to avoid even the suspicion of disloyalty, and their reward is that their religion is now interfered with.

If Sir Charles Elliott does not withdraw his obnoxious circular, surely Government will have to make arrangements for meeting a far more gigantic riot on the occasion of the next Buqid than occurred any where this year; for the Buqid which was so long only Wajib (an act enjoined by the Prophet) has now, owing to the opposition offered to its celebration, become Faraz (Divine injunction which must be obeyed), and therefore can by no means be avoided by the Musulmans.

Title-holding Musulmans, as such, have no voice in religious matters, and if Government is at all anxious to secure the opinion of the Musalman public, it should send for Maulvies from different parts of India, and people will gladly follow their lead; otherwise, we are bound to say that Government has unjustly interfered with the religion of the Musulmans, and has violated the Queen's proclamation by this sacrilegious circular.

The Muhammadan scriptures say that so long as the ruling power of a country does not interfere with the religion of its Muhammadan subjects, observances under that religion may be practised in that country; but if any obstruction is placed in the way of such observances, that very moment the optional rites of the Musulman religion become compulsory and the country becomes *Darulharal* (i.e., a place which Musalmans must leave at once, or against which Musulmans must proclaim a *jihad*).

Now, the Musulmans have never mutinied against the British Government, nor have they done aught against its interests, but the world knows what treatment they have received at its hands. Now, if the Korbani is stopped, the country will become *Darulharal*, and in such a country the Friday prayer will not be allowable. By stopping the Buqid Government has prevented the Musulmans from performing any religious observances.

Will Government say after this that it has not interfered with the Muhammadan religion?

HITAVADI,
Feb. 22nd, 1894.

33. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd February says that the public mind in this country has been greatly exercised over the news of an unexpected deficit in the budget. Taxation has reached its extreme limit, and the imposition of any new tax will give rise to danger. The deficit may be met in a variety of ways, namely, by the revival of the import duties on European piece-goods and the imposition of an export duty on articles which are grown only in India, and as well as on certain other articles of trade. But the just and upright Government of this country cannot have recourse to these modes of taxation for fear lest by doing so it should injure the interests of the merchants of Manchester or of other western people who carry on business in India. A duty on tobacco is talked of, but its imposition will cause great hardship to the labouring classes with whom tobacco is an invaluable refresher. Lord Mayo once proposed a tax on the article, but soon abandoned the idea for this very reason.

BANGANIVASI,
Feb. 23rd, 1894.

34. The *Banganivasi* of the 23rd February complains that the clerks in the Commissioner's office, Patna, are made to come to office on holidays and Sundays. They were made to attend office even on the last *Sripanchami* day—an occasion on which Hindus are prohibited by their shastras from touching pen and ink.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 23rd, 1894.

35. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 23rd February requests Government to impose a duty on all imported articles, in order to be able to meet the deficit in the budget without imposing a fresh direct tax on the people. About forty-five crores of rupees worth of articles of various descriptions, besides gold and silver to the amount of 15 crores of rupees, are annually imported into

India, and a 5 per cent. import duty on all these will bring Government a revenue of 3 crores of rupees. The rest of the deficit can be met by imposing an export duty on indigo and jute.

36. The *Sanjivani* of the 24th February says that, notwithstanding the stopping of all public works expenditure during the ensuing year, Government will have to meet a deficit of three crores of rupees in the budget only on account of the exchange difficulty. Various proposals for increasing revenue have been made in view of the deficit. But the writer is strongly opposed to this course, because the people of India are already overtaxed, as has been admitted by Lord Lansdowne himself. Let Government stop the exchange compensation allowance it has granted to its European servants, curtail its civil and military expenditures, and reduce the number of its highly-paid European servants, and it will be relieved of all its financial difficulty.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

37. The Gauhati correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:—

Messrs. McCabe and Lee of Kamrup. It is a fortunate circumstance for the Kamrup district that in a time of unquiet like this, an amiable, intelligent, and cool-headed officer like Mr. McCabe is at the helm of its affairs. Less tact in carrying out the orders of Government and less sympathy with the people than what has been displayed by this officer in the present crisis would have plunged Kamrup into the same difficulties through which Mangaldai has had to pass. Mr. McCabe's protest against the enhancement of rent was couched in such strong language that Government had to warn him not to use such language in future. Mr. McCabe replied that he had only expressed in words what he felt in his mind; and that if Government did not relish what he had said, it might transfer him from Kamrup, for he was not willing to realise rents at the point of the bayonet. In his opinion, the raiyats had offered but a feeble resistance to the collectors of the land revenue. If he had been himself one of the raiyats, he would have offered a much stronger resistance. Mr. McCabe has informed the raiyats that Government has reduced the rates of rent. It is said that the Chief Commissioner has consented to give his sanction to whatever arrangement Mr. McCabe has thought it advisable to come to with the raiyats. But Mr. McCabe's Assistant, Mr. Lee, is an officer of a very different type. He deems it unnecessary to show the least courtesy to a native. Some time ago, he insulted some pleaders of his Court, who, in consequence, in a body refused to appear in his Court. Mr. McCabe advised the pleaders to submit a petition to himself stating their wrongs. And it was only when the petition was sent to Mr. Lee with Mr. McCabe's remarks that the former officer apologised to the pleaders. But this lesson was lost upon him, for lately he beat with his shoes a head-constable who had come to his bungalow to take orders. The head-constable submitted a petition against him. But Mr. Lee immediately went away on seven days' leave preliminary to availing himself of the furlough for which he has applied, and which he expects to be sanctioned very soon.

SANJIVANI.

38. The same paper has the following:—

A reign of terror in Assam. It is dreadful news we are receiving from Assam. The contents of the letters sent to us by some respectable people are such as to make one shudder. In many cases men are being subjected to indignities, and, what is very much worse, female honour too is not safe. We cannot publish everything that our correspondents have communicated to us. It is impossible to give in words an adequate idea of the consternation which the people of Assam are in just now. Lord Elgin has just arrived in India, and it is very doubtful whether he will be able to realise the sort of oppression that is being committed in Assam. His Lordship has brought with him to this country liberal principles and a tender heart, and love of justice is characteristic of his family. The people of Assam are now crying in their great danger, and His Lordship's kindness is the one thing they now reckon upon. What has now happened in Assam never before took place in any part of India. The officials who were implicated in the slaughter of the people are now sitting in judgment upon them. Everybody will be able to see what hope of justice there is under these circumstances.

SANJIVANI.

Our Assam correspondent writes:—"Of the raiyats wounded in the Mangaldai riot, five were in the Gauhati hospital for treatment. Of these, four

received shots in their legs and one on his breast. On the 12th February last the Chief Commissioner went to the hospital to see them. But before his visit, the police from Mangaldai had taken them away. In all probability these men will die on the way for want of treatment."

The incident related by our correspondent is really horrible. Did any one, we ask, ever hear of such oppression? This shows that there is no one to care for the poor Assamese. We are really alarmed for the raiyats.

A respectable man writes to us from Gauhati:—"The anarchy in Assam is increasing every day. In the beginning of this century the people of Assam were terribly oppressed by the uncivilised Burmese. The then Raja of Assam therefore sought the protection of the English Government, which was granted. After the Assamese had been delivered from Burmese oppression they thought that they would always live happily under British rule. But in this latter end of the century that hope of theirs has been disappointed. To say nothing of a civilised Government, no one has ever heard of such oppression by even an uncivilised Government.

The oppressions that have found their way into public print is as a dew-drop in the ocean when compared with all the oppressions that have taken place. An account of the oppressions committed in Kamrup alone since the 10th January last will fill a middle-sized volume. There being no newspapers in Assam, full notices of these oppressions are not being published.

The men have all fled, and the condition of the women is such as cannot be contemplated without horror. The food stores, moneys and domestic utensils in men's houses are being plundered. Brahmins and people of other respectable castes are being made to work harder than coolies at the construction of a new jail. The Gosvamis of Biraha Kutir have more than a lakh of disciples in Kamrup, and they never performed physical labour. It is heartrending to see the way in which they are being made to dig the ground.

The sight of these suffering prisoners is, however, one which can be borne with patience. But one cannot bear to see respectable women oppressed in the way they are being oppressed.

There were no disturbances whatever in the Hajo Tehsil. Seeing the state of things around them, these Hajo men are paying rent by selling everything in their houses and are thus saving themselves from oppression. But Madhab Chandra Roy, Durgaram Majumdar, Bhadrannarayan Patwari and eight or nine other respectable men of Barabhaga mauza were served with summonses charging them under section 506 of the Indian Penal Code, and were taken to the Lachhima Camp, where they were kept as prisoners and set to dig with raiyats. After having been tormented in various ways for seven or eight days, they were appointed special constables and were released.

It is not possible for one who was not an eye-witness to form an idea of the sufferings of the people. The oppression is really horrible. Dreadful oppressions are being practised on some families. They are perfectly helpless, for they are being oppressed by those very men who should be their *na bap*.

At the Dura Kanhara station a young and respectable woman of 16 or 17 was subjected to brutal oppression for nine days together. When she at last bled profusely and was on the point of death she was left in the street. The poor husband could do nothing to save his wife from this inhuman oppression. When there are oppressions on all sides, can redress be looked for? On the 13th February last she was carried to Gauhati in a bamboo-litter, and she died there an hour after her deposition had been taken. What inhuman oppression! Is anything more dreadful than this possible?

If the Government of India appoints a Commission to enquire into these matters, hundreds of cases of oppression will come to light. Otherwise there is no chance of oppression coming to light in a province which has no newspapers. The Assamese are now in great terror. Will God ever take pity upon them?

No one could ever dream that such oppression would take place under British rule.

39. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 25th February has the following on

The Dacca Administration Report for 1892-93.

Mr. Luttman-Johnson's Administration Report for the Dacca Division for 1892-93:—

The writer is sorry to read the Commissioner's remarks on the seven newspapers published in the Dacca Division. He knows

that the Commissioner cannot read Bengali newspapers, and does not, as a matter of fact, read the *Dacca Prakash*, and so it was his duty not to include that paper in his remarks on the native press. As he does not read that paper, how can he know how it is conducted? It is hoped that in future the Commissioner will not place the *Dacca Prakash* in the same category with other papers. The *Dacca Prakash* is not in the habit of borrowing views and opinions from other papers; its views and opinions are all its own. It, therefore, deserves separate treatment. By its hostility towards the Congress movement it has incurred the dislike of the educated classes, but as it has the good of the people at heart, it cannot follow and support the views of those classes who form, after all but a very insignificant portion of the entire population of the country. The writer is sorry that the Commissioner has noticed the most important event of the year with the utmost unconcern. Last year there were 60,024 deaths in the Dacca district. This large mortality was due to famine, but the Commissioner's report contains absolutely no reference to famine. According to him, the large mortality was due to small-pox, though he has himself shown that only 1,659 persons died of that disease. The following table, giving the rates of mortality as well as the actual number of deaths in the district during the last 13 years, settles the point:—

Year.			Actual number of deaths.	Rate per mille.
1880-81	...	...	28,708	15.48
1881-82	...	...	38,681	Unnecessary.
1882-83	...	...	44,113	"
1883-84	...	...	41,448	"
1884-85	...	...	49,457	"
1885-86	...	...	42,441	"
1886-87	...	...	48,515	"
1887-88	...	...	43,377	"
1888-89	...	...	48,854	"
1889-90	...	...	44,774	"
1890-91	...	...	84,744	"
1891-92	...	...	50,354	"
1892-93	...	...	60,024	24.79

This shows that mortality in the district was higher last year than in any one of the 12 preceding years. Year before last, there was a large number of deaths from small-pox, and famine only commenced to break out, and as many as 50,000 people died. But last year's mortality was higher still, having risen to 60,000. The average of the previous 12 years' number of deaths is 43,000, and so, that average was exceeded last year by 17,000! These 17,000 men must therefore have died from famine, for rice sold last year at 6 to 7 seers a rupee. And it is a matter of regret that the Commissioner has made no reference to this high mortality from famine. Last year, when famine broke out the writer repeatedly drew Government's attention to it. And then, when the Lieutenant-Governor paid a visit to Manikganj, the writer prayed for an enquiry into the famine then raging, into the hardship caused by the increase of the chaukidari tax, and into the devastation of certain parts of the district caused by the silting up of the rivers Kantapati and Ichhamati. A memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor on the subject of the grievance was drawn up, but could not be presented to His Honour in time for fear of the Magistrate and the Police. But it was at last presented, and an explanation was called for from the Magistrate. What the explanation submitted by the Magistrate was is not known, but this much is certain that from that time he ordered the police to see that reports of distress were not circulated. Babu Mahim Chandra Gupta, Sub-Inspector of the Nowabganj Police, was rebuked by the Magistrate and compelled to retire on pension for having noticed distress in his report. Thenceforward, police officers ascribed deaths from starvation to other causes. Though the writer continued to write about the distress, the matter remained unheeded on account of the Magistrate's explanation. Let the European community, which prides itself on its civilisation, now judge whether it was sound statesmanship on the part of Government to starve thousands of its subjects to death by disregarding the warnings given by the paper. To whom, if not to Government, shall the writer tell the sad story of how it has caused the death of 17,000 men in Dacca by its disregard for native life? If Government is unwilling to hear the story, it may shut the mouth of the native press; but so

long as that is not done, so long the writer will think that Government wishes to hear such stories, but its subordinate officers will not, from selfish motives, let it do so.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 25th, 1894.

40. A correspondent of the same paper says that during the recent outbreak of cholera at Singharail, a village within the jurisdiction of the Nandail post-office in the district of Mymensingh, the post peon fearing he might catch the disease for a long time left letters, &c., with the shop-keepers of the place instead of distributing them himself. This has caused great irregularity in the dāk service of the village, and many letters have been lost. It is hoped that the postal authorities will enquire.

A postal complaint.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

SAHACHAR,
Feb. 21st, 1894.

41. The *Sáhachár* of the 21st February has the following:—

The *Pioneer* on the interpellation right.

This right is an eyesore to the *Pioneer*. It does not like that questions relating to the affairs of India should be put either in Parliament or in the Legislative Councils in this country. The questions put at the last meeting of the Bengal Council have elicited a strong language of disapprobation from that paper. According to it these questions had reference to matters which those who put them did not understand. But while writing thus, it did not apparently occur to the *rishi* (sage) of Allahabad that people want information only on matters which they do not know. Be that as it may, these questions could elicit nothing important from Government, for the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton replied to them in the same evasive way in which Sir John Gorst used to reply to questions put in Parliament. No discussion is allowed to follow the replies to the questions which are put. Nevertheless, the interpellation right must be regarded as a valuable concession. In consequence of it, Government is now compelled to give explanations of the acts done either by itself or by its officers. And as these explanations prevent people from indulging in guesses and conjectures about the actions of their rulers, the new right has greatly benefited Government. But the party of the *Pioneer* do not see this. The fact is that the enjoyment of absolute power has produced such a strange frame of mind in officials that they have come to regard themselves as infallible, and the natives as inferior creatures, and to think it a humiliation to answer their questions. But this frame of mind will have to be altered. Government asks the zamindars not to remain content with merely collecting rent from their raiyats, but to spend a portion of their income for their benefit. And, judged by its advice to the zamindars, how extensive does its own responsibility to its people become. It is hoped that the officials will now admit the necessity of marching with the time. The time has come for abolishing the use of the word 'native.' It is of course improper to put useless and unimportant questions, but no such questions have yet been put in the Council. The officials should nevertheless remember that India is not a *taluk* in the *khas* possession of any particular class of people among them, so that they may object to questions put about it. The wonder, however, is that they very often forget this fact, and have to be reminded of it.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 22nd, 1894.

42. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd February has the following in connection with the Prisons Bill:—

The Prisons Bill.

An examination of the Bill has destroyed the hopes which were raised by its introduction in the Council. It contains no provisions intended to check the cruelties which are perpetrated on prisoners in the jails. The officials know that the existing jail regulations tend only to harden prisoners in their career of crime, and though they have been for the last 60 years trying to reform their Jail Code, they have not yet arrived at definite conclusions on this point. Be that as it may, no measures have yet been taken to protect prisoners in jail from disease and untimely death. The other day, a Brahmin youth of the town was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for trying to violate the chastity of a young woman, but within a week after his incarceration he fell a victim to the rigours of jail discipline. Cases of untimely death like this occur from time to time, simply because prisoners are from the first day of their admission in jail subjected to hard labour of a kind to which they are not accustomed. New prisoners are made to turn oil-machines

like so many oxen. Such severe and unnatural labour breaks down the health of even low-caste prisoners, and no wonder that high-caste prisoners should, at times, succumb to it. Again, considering the amount of labour which prisoners have to perform, the diet which they get is very insufficient, as is clear from the fact that its cost per prisoner is, on an average, not more than Rs. 2-2 a month. These two causes, namely, unusually hard labour and insufficient diet, account for the high mortality among the jail population. And it is the duty of the Select Committee which is now sitting on the Bill to devise measures with a view to put down this mortality. There are of course prisoners who are not the least inconvenienced by the existing jail regulations, and who look upon jails in the same light as one looks upon one's father-in-law's house. They are all *pucca budmashes*, and very strict discipline is required to keep them in check. But it is wrong to place prisoners who are not habitual offenders and who have been sent to jail for acts done on the spur of the moment, in the same category with these men. They require a wholly different treatment as regards diet and labour, and the attention of the Select Committee is drawn to this point.

43. The *Sanjivani* of the 24th February says that the recent interpellations in the Bengal Council have filled the *Pioneer* with alarm, lest the non-official members should some day ask questions calculated to endanger the administration and the authorities. The writer is not sure whether it is the *Pioneer* who is alarmed or the officials who often write in that paper. The *Pioneer* has proposed the curtailment of even the restricted privilege which has been accorded to the members. But there is little chance of such a proposal being carried into effect during Lord Elgin's administration.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

44. The *Bangavasi* of the 24th February writes as follows:—
The Sanitary Drainage Bill. The Malaria Commission, which cost so much and which made a very careful enquiry into the cause of the disease, failed to arrive at any definite conclusion. Though the cause of the disease must, therefore, be still regarded as remaining involved in doubt, the Government of Bengal does not fail to make attempts from time to time to eradicate it. And these attempts are made on the basis of the broad principle of Western Sanitary Science, namely, that a supply of pure drinking-water and a good drainage are the only things needed for the improvement of sanitation. Following this principle, Government says in the statement of objects and reasons appended to its Sanitary Drainage Bill that obstruction to drainage is the sole cause of the prevalence of fever in Bengal. The writer cannot agree in this view, and he ventures to add that the greatest English authorities will hesitate before endorsing or accepting it. The fact is, the Government of this country makes any statement it likes, on its own authority and *ipsi dixit*, whenever the making of such a statement becomes necessary in order to enable it to impose a fresh tax on the people.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

The Bill proposes the imposition of a fresh tax for sanitary improvement in mufassal areas; and the tax will have to be borne entirely by the raiyats and zamindars. Like the road and public works cesses, another new cess is therefore going to be imposed on the zamindars in violation of Lord Cornwallis' Permanent Settlement, which has ever since its enactment caused endless annoyance to English administrators in Bengal, and for the overthrow of which no end of stratagems have been resorted to. But the writer fails to see why the cost of sanitary drainage constructions, which will benefit all classes of people alike, should be borne by the zamindars and raiyats alone. This will not certainly be even-handed justice.

The new tax has been proposed to be levied in the same way as the kindred road and public works cesses. But every one who knows anything of the oppressions which are committed in the collection of these two cesses must deprecate the proposal.

Any District Board or the residents of any place may apply for sanitary drainage constructions in any local area. But in the absence of any representation from either of these sources, Government will take up drainage construction in a locality, of its own motion, if the health of the locality seems to it to be bad. It will in that case appoint a Commission to execute the work, the Commission being composed of those landowners through whose lands the drains will pass. The members of the Commission will of course be honorary

officers, and the writer fears that they will often sacrifice their own interests for the empty honour of becoming Drainage Commissioners.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 24th, 1894.

45. The same paper says that the proposed amendment of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, compelling every subject to give information of riots and unlawful assemblies, will yield no result beyond supplying

the authorities with fresh opportunities for harassing and oppressing the people. The writer cannot therefore approve of the proposed amendment.

BANGAVASI.

46. The same paper has heard that the Prisons Bill will be hurriedly passed into law, though it is not known why. If the authorities really want to reform the jails, they

should avoid all hurry and pass a law only after hearing and weighing opinions from all quarters. The writer cannot believe that the proposal for jail reform has been made only with a view of making a show. It is to be hoped that out of mercy for the poor prisoners in the jails the Legislature will not pass the Bill without due deliberation.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 26th, 1894.

47. *The Dainik-o-Samachar Chndrika* of the 26th February says that the answers given by Messrs. Cotton and Bourdillon to Babu Surendranath Banerjee's questions at the

last meeting of the Bengal Council were most perfunctory, and in one or two instances, angry and reproachful in tone, clearly indicating vexation and annoyance. And well may this interpellation business cause vexation to the Secretaries, for they were never before required to render an account of their actions to any body. Not that they have to render any account now, but they have certainly to exercise great tact and caution now in framing answers, which means additional office work. The Secretaries may therefore very reasonably object to the interpellation right. And it is already heard that the right will soon be modified.

SULABH DAINIK,
Feb. 26th, 1894.

48. *The Sulabh Dainik* of the 26th February refers to the Sanitary Drainage Bill, and remarks as follows:—

The Sanitary Drainage Bill.

Nobody doubts the correctness of the finding of the Belvedere Conference that obstructed drainage and bad drinking-water are the causes of the malaria now prevailing in the Bengal villages. But the proposal in the Bill to levy a cess for the purpose of removing those causes has alarmed the writer. But he will have no objection to the provision in the Bill that Government may impose the cess whenever it considers the health of a particular tract of country to be in need of improvement, provided able and trustworthy men are appointed to carry out the wishes of Government in this respect. Government deserves praise for the care it has taken in drafting the measure. Under the Bill, as it stands, the estimates and plans for works of improvement will be first submitted to Government and then revised, if necessary, by the District Board. Now, this procedure should be changed, and plans and estimates should be first submitted for revision to the District Board, and then sent to Government for approval. This seems to be the better course. As all classes of the people will participate in the benefits resulting from good drainage and drinking-water, it will not be proper for Government to impose the cess only on zamindars and raiyats, none of whom are in a position to bear a new burden. If the cess is imposed only on the above two classes, it will be like another road cess or public works cess. Health and sanitation are very good things, but the people are not able to pay for them, so over-burdened have they been with taxes. The surplus of the public works cess should be spent for the purposes of this new Bill. But if, as Government says, no surplus of that cess remains after meeting the expenditure on public works, a new cess will have to be imposed, but, in that case, the cess should fall on all classes and not on raiyat and zamindar alone. The writer is, however, certain that a large surplus remains after meeting the expenditure on public works, and this surplus Government appropriates to itself. Government may also spend three-fourths of the proceeds of the road and public works Cesses for sanitary purposes and one-fourth on public works, and in this way utilise the proceeds of the road cess which are now very often misspent in the interest of private individuals. An enquiry will prove the correctness of this statement. The fact is that the greater part of the road-cess money is not spent on its legitimate purpose and this money may, therefore, very well be

utilised for the purposes of sanitation. So long as the people do not see the money which is paid by them as road cess properly accounted for, so long they will refuse to pay any new cess.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

49. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 26th February says that Mr. Plowden, Resident at Hyderabad, has ordered that all appointments made by the Nizam's Government must be submitted to him for approval. So the time may come when Mr. Plowden will say that the Nizam's harem must be looked after by men appointed by himself.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 26th, 1894.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

50. The *Hitavadi* of the 22nd February says that scarcity has made its appearance in the Tippera district; and as the price of rice has risen high, many families are starving. The people are so badly in want of money that many of them will have to starve even if rice sells at one rupee a maund. Money cannot be had by pawning gold articles, and silver will shortly sell at six annas a tola. The condition of the people is becoming worse every day. Many lives may be saved if Government advances them money at a low rate of interest.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 22nd, 1894.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

51. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 26th February says that the indigo-planters of Bihar have submitted a memorial to the Government of Bengal, saying that the Hindus have real grievances in regard to cow-slaughter, and praying for the removal of the same.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Feb. 26th, 1894.

52. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 28th February says that at the last Town Hall meeting, held with the object of discussing the currency situation, Raja Peary Mohan spoke in favour of the recent currency settlement. He declared himself opposed to the policy of free coinage of silver, and advocated an import duty on that article—so completely has he been won over by the party of Mr. Mackay. But in the matter of the currency, the Raja possesses no representative character. He is unable to see the amount of mischief that is being done to the country in consequence of the recent currency legislation, and the further mischief that will be done to it if the importation of silver is in any way restricted. He has indeed advocated the re-imposition of the cotton duties, but the effect of this has been marred by his advocacy of the currency legislation. For, after all, Government may pay heed to his bad advice and disregard his good advice. Mr. Anderson, the new leader of the Mackay party supported the Raja, and it is the writer's impression that he got the latter to say what he and his party wished to be said. Mr. Anderson, however, attached no importance to the portion of the Raja's speech advocating the re-imposition of the cotton duties, and confined himself to a defence of the recent currency legislation, and spoke in favour of the Secretary of State's withholding commercial drafts and of some restriction on the importation of silver. Thus it is clear that the last meeting at the Town Hall was got up in the interest of the Mackay party. The Master of the Trades Association is also a member of the Mackay party, and declared himself accordingly at the meeting. Mr. Abendroth took exception to the proposal which was moved by the Raja and supported by the Master of the Trades Association, saying that a solution of complicated questions like those relating to the currency could not be arrived at at a public meeting, but his objection was overruled. So the Mackay party has gained its object, that it is to say, it has succeeded in getting its views supported by the respectable native gentlemen of Calcutta. The Hon'ble Surendra Babu advocated a reduction of the Home charges and the abolition of the compensation allowances. Mr. R. D. Mehta also spoke in favour of a reduction of the Home charges. But as the writer has so often shown, a reduction of the Home charges cannot be easily effected, and Government at this juncture

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 28th, 1894.

will be compelled to increase the rate of some of the taxes already imposed. It was the duty of the native speakers at the Town Hall to point out some way out of the present financial difficulty.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Feb. 28th, 1894.

53. The same paper refers to the memorial addressed to the Governor of Bombay by some of the Hindu residents of Yeola, and observes as follows:—

The prayer of the memorialists is just and proper. There can be no doubt that these riots are caused by the incapacity, partiality and recklessness of the officials. A distinguished Anglo-Indian, like Mr. Reynolds, also shares this view. Mr. Vishnu-Narayan has also proved the same thing by incontestable evidence. It is not known whether or not the Governor of Bombay has granted the prayer of the Hindus. If it has not been already granted, it ought to be granted, for the situation in Yeola demands an impartial investigation, the more so, as in its Resolution of 18th February, Government had no opportunity of discussing all the points connected with the riot.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA.

54. The same paper approves of the memorial on the cow-slaughter question, which has been addressed to the Governor-General by the Bihar Indigo-planters' Association. The memorialists justly say that, considering the nature of the recent disturbances, the Government of India should interfere in the matter. It should issue a circular on the subject of cow-slaughter like the one which has been issued by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The prayer of the Association that restrictions should be put on cow-slaughter not only by Muhammadans but also for cantonment purposes should also be granted.

URIYA PAPERS.

55. All the native papers of Orissa are unanimous in their opposition to the proposal of Government to abolish the medical school in Cuttack. They ask the natives of Orissa, including the gentry and nobility, to do something on behalf of a popular, useful and long-cherished institution like this medical school.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Jan. 25th 1894.

56. The *Samvadvāhika* of the 25th January repeats the old charge that the survey and settlement subordinates are committing a deal of mischief by troubling raiyats and zamindars in various ways.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE.

The 3rd March 1894.